

The Great Computer Challenge, 2025

Desktop Presentation, Level 2

Background

As the natural world comes alive and blooms with brilliance, summer and spring are the perfect seasons to venture out and connect with the wonders of the earth's many living creatures. The Virginia Zoo is one of the best places for families to create lasting memories and enjoy a fun, enriching experience together.

Guidelines & Requirements

1. The presentation must contain a minimum of five (5) slides.
2. At least one slide must provide general information about the Virginia Zoo.
3. At least one slide must identify in list format information about the Virginia Zoo.
4. At least one slide must include a picture, diagram, or drawing.
5. At least one slide must include a graph, chart or table with numerical or statistical information about the Virginia Zoo.

When creating your slides try to utilize as many of the software's key features as possible. Design slides with layouts and color schemes that are visually appealing. Choose text types, size, and colors that most clearly display the information. You may use clip art, drawings, audio, or video clips on any of the slides. The presentation should show your own creative, original work.

Challenge

Your team's challenge is to design an exciting and informative presentation to spark excitement for families to visit the Virginia Zoo for exploring and connecting with wildlife. You should highlight the fun, education, and adventurous activities that the Virginia Zoo offers for all ages. You can include photos of popular animals, showcase different exhibits, talk about hands-on features and how the Virginia Zoo is involved with conservation efforts to protect endangered species.

While it is most important that slide content, pictures, charts, and lists effectively communicate your points to the reader, you should also be creative to add eye-catching visual appeal.

To help you with your presentation, general information about the Virginia Zoo is included in the pages that follow. You may also conduct and organize your own research. Remember to footnote the source of any direct quotations used in your slides.

Judging Criteria

1. The presentation meets all 5 requirements.
2. Information is accurate, well organized and clearly displayed.
3. Pictures, charts, drawings, and lists provide effective communication.
4. Slides layouts are original, visually appealing and show creativity.

SOL Correlation

Mathematics Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools – August 2023

3.PS.1 The student will apply the data cycle (formulate questions; collect or acquire data; organize and represent data; and analyze data and communicate results) with a focus on pictographs and bar graphs.

4.PS.1 The student will apply the data cycle (formulate questions; collect or acquire data; organize and represent data; and analyze data and communicate results) with a focus on line graphs.

5.PS.1 The student will apply the data cycle (formulate questions; collect or acquire data; organize and represent data; and analyze data and communicate results) with a focus on line plots (dot plots) and stem-and-leaf plots.

English Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools – March 2024

3.R.1 Evaluation and Synthesis of Information (A) Identify a topic and generate questions that explore the topic. (B) Locate information in reference texts, electronic resources, provided sources, or through interviews and take brief notes on sources. (C) Organize evidence into relevant categories, recognizing that some sources may be more reliable than others. (D) Organize and share information orally, in writing, or through visual display. (E) Avoid plagiarism, giving credit to sources of information (title and author when available).

4.R.1 Evaluation and Synthesis of Information (A) Construct and formulate questions about a topic. (B) Identify search terms to locate information on the topic and gather relevant information from various print and digital sources. (C) Organize and synthesize information from the print and digital resources determining the relevance and reliability of the information gathered. (D) Develop notes that include important concept, summaries, and

identification of information sources. (E) Organize and share information orally, in writing, or through visual display. (F) Avoid plagiarism and give proper credit by providing citations whenever using another person's media, facts, ideas, graphics, music, and direct quotations.

5.R.1 Evaluation and Synthesis of Information (A) Formulate questions that help narrow the topic and revise questions as needed based on research. (B) Identify search terms to locate information and gather relevant information from various print and digital sources to address the research. (C) Organize and synthesize information from the print and digital resources, evaluating their relevance, reliability, and credibility. (D) Develop notes that include important concepts, summaries, and identification of information sources. (E) Organize and share information orally, in writing, or through visual display. (F) Avoid plagiarism and give proper credit by providing citations whenever using another person's media, facts, ideas, graphics, music, and direct quotations.

4.C.3 Integrating Multimodal Literacies (A) Select, organize, and create engaging presentations that include multimedia components and visual displays. (B) Strategically use two or more interdependent modes of communication to convey the intended message and enhance the development of main ideas or themes.

5.C.3 Integrating Multimodal Literacies 51 English Standards of Learning- [March] 2024 (A) Select, organize, and create engaging presentations that include multimedia components and visual displays. (B) Strategically use two or more interdependent modes of communication to convey the intended message and enhance the development of main ideas or themes.

***Have fun and thank you for participating in the
Great Computer Challenge, 2025!***

Information About the Virginia Zoo (Source: <https://virginiazoo.org>)

General Facts

- The Virginia Zoo began acquiring animals in 1901, so the Zoo is more than 120 years old!
- The Zoo spans 53 acres in Norfolk, Virginia next to the Lafayette River.
- Zoo residents from around the world include more than 700 animals, ranging from mega-vertebrates, like rhinos and giraffes, to primates and alpacas.
- Overall, the Virginia Zoo employs roughly 100 full and part-time staff.
- Roughly 500,000 guests visit the Zoo annually.
- More than 16,000 children participated in education programs in 2013.
- Over 700 parking spaces for your convenience at no additional cost.

Popular exhibits

- Asia – Trail of the Tiger: This immersive exhibit transports visitors through cascading waterfalls and lush landscapes, showcasing exotic animals from across Asia. Highlights include red pandas, siamangs, tiger cubs, and sun bears.
- Africa – Okavango Delta: Experience the African savannah with animals like giraffes, lions, rhinos, cheetahs, and tortoises. The exhibit features scenic landscapes and offers close-up views of these majestic creatures.
- World of Reptiles & Friends: Explore a diverse range of reptiles and amphibians, including venomous snakes, vibrant frogs, and multi-colored monitors. The exhibit also features a floor-to-ceiling crocodile marsh for an immersive experience.
- Turtle Oasis: Opened in 2024, this exhibit houses 26 North American freshwater turtles, including endangered species like spotted and Blanding's turtles. It focuses on rescue, research, and rehabilitation efforts.
- Run Wild! Nature Discovery Zone: Like a traditional playground, a nature play area encourages children to use their imagination to play, but unlike the traditional play structure, the Run Wild! Nature Discovery Zone is unstructured and informal play that incorporates the natural and surrounding landscape and vegetation to bring nature to children's daily outdoor play and learning environments.
- ZooFarm: A family-friendly area featuring a variety of animals, both domestic and exotic. Visitors can interact with cows, pigs, goats, and more, making it a hands-on experience for all ages.
- Themed Gardens: The zoo boasts 10 themed gardens, including the Butterfly Garden, Organic Rose Garden, and Tropical Garden, offering a serene backdrop for exploration.
- Zoo Train: A 20-minute ride that takes visitors through various exhibits, including the Animal Wellness Campus and behind-the-scenes areas, providing a unique perspective of the zoo.

Interactive Programs

- Zoo Tales: A story-time program featuring animal stories, educational activities, and sometimes an animal visitor.
- Little Zoo: An intimate look at animal ambassadors with themed interactions inside one of the Zoo's classroom spaces.
- Wild Walks: Free guided tours available on Wednesdays at 10:30 am, meeting in the plaza just after the front entry gates.

Live Presentations

- Keeper Chats: Informal sessions where guests can learn about animals from their keepers. Ever wanted to know an animal's birthday? Or their favorite treat? Get insider information about the animals at our Zoo from their own keepers!
- Educator Chats: Discussions led by Zoo Educators about wild places, animal adaptations, and conservation actions. Learn from our Zoo Educators all about the wild places our species at the Zoo come from, amazing adaptations they have, unique animal relationships, and conservation actions you can take to protect our natural world!
- Zoo Live! Stage Shows: Exciting presentations with animal ambassadors, demonstrating natural and enriching behaviors. Come watch exciting presentations full of fun facts and animal ambassadors! Watch animal handlers work with ambassador animals to demonstrate natural and enriching behaviors on stage to a seated audience, with a specific theme and takeaway conservation message for each show.
- Plant Chats: Learn about the beautiful and bountiful gardens and plants at the Virginia Zoo. Learn from the Horticulture or Education staff all about the beautiful and bountiful gardens and plants at the Virginia Zoo! From flowers and fruits to bugs and browse, there's lots to learn about our plants at the Zoo and beyond.
- Diet Kitchen Chats: Watch Zoo chefs at work, preparing diets for animals and learn how nutrition is sourced and delivered throughout the Zoo.

Playgrounds

- Run Wild! Nature Discovery Zone: A one-acre natural playground that stimulates the imagination and allow children to take calculated risks, which help them to build critical decision-making skills. Features include a bamboo maze, stump jump, willow tunnel, dig boxes, balance beams and a Conservation Cabin.
- Snavelly the Rhinoceros Viper: A 67-foot-long snake sculpture that doubles as a children's play structure. The snake is constructed out of reinforced fiberglass and weighs almost 9,000 pounds.
- Water plaza: Relax and watch your excited children frolic in the water.

Behind-the-Scenes Tours

Experience up-close encounters with animals such as rhinos, giraffes, tortoises, tapirs, and bison. These tours offer insights into animal care, behavior, and conservation efforts. Each tour provides unique opportunities to learn about and interact with the animals.

Selfie Station

This station allows guests to transform into animals like tigers, lions, or orangutans using fun selfie filters. Simply download and point the Zappar app at the attached images to snap photos as an animal.